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face, a spot which we can stand upon. Ross has given us the actual geographical position of the American pole not only to degrees but to minutes While in a certain sense this is no doubt correct, in another sense it seems to be misleading. Even in an ordinary bar magnet the poles are of appreciable size and in comparison with the magnet they are of considerable size. If then, the earth is a magnet, what must be the size of its poles? It can scarcely be questioned that they must cover a large area.

The book may be heartily commended to that part of the public which would like to know the present state of our knowledge of terrestrial magnetism.

Side-Lights on Astronomy and Kindred Fields of Popular Science. Essays and Addresses. By **Simon Newcomb.** viii and 350 pp., Illustrations and Index. Harper & Brothers, New York, 1906.

This is in the main a collection of essays and addresses which have appeared in various magazines from 1882 to the present. For the purpose of this republication, Dr. Newcomb revised the material and brought it down to date. The chapters illustrate admirably his ability to treat in a popular way, for all intelligent readers, many of the great facts of science.

Although his topics are chiefly astronomical, he has also included discussions relating to general scientific subjects, such as the mariner's compass, geometry, the organization of scientific research, the outlook for the flying machine, and several others. In the field to which he is especially devoted, he treats the unsolved problems of astronomy, the structure and extent of the universe, the life it may support, and new problems relating to the Cosmos which the advance of science has brought to the front. He writes of the universe as an organism or a connected whole, tells how planets are weighed, makes plain to the general reader the meaning and uses of the Astronomical Ephemeris and the Nautical Almanac, describes the world's debt to astronomy, and the aspects of American astronomy, and reports what astronomers are doing.

These twenty-one papers deal with many of the best fruits of scientific research, and all is told in a style so simple and interesting that the discussions are certain to be fascinating even to those who are not much inclined to scientific reading. We may regard this book, abounding, as it does, with approved and significant information, as one of the best of the works whose purpose is the popularization of science.

A Scientific Geography. By **Ellis W. Heaton.** Book II. The British Isles, 142 pp., and 45 Maps and Diagrams. Book III. Europe. 154 pp., and 47 Maps and Diagrams. Ralph, Holland & Co., London, 1906. (Price, each, 1s. 6d.)

These are excellent little books, whose aim is, as the author says, to associate the leading facts of geography in such a way that they will not only be interestingly presented but also that some explanation of the facts will be afforded. The books are suggestive rather than exhaustive. The author insists throughout upon the use of maps and sketch maps, and he endeavours to impress facts and inter-relations by requesting the student to make or fill out maps and diagrams to illustrate the text. Thus he asks the student to fill in, on a map supplied in the book, the details necessary to complete a table dealing with the elevation, temperature, rainfall, and agriculture of the various districts of Great Britain. Such an exercise can hardly fail to bring home to the student the close inter-relations between these factors. Much stress is put upon the physical causes which lead to agricultural and industrial development. The treatment is fresh and interesting,